



HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Franklin Washington R-7

MARCH 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday, March 5:
No School
- Thursday, March 11:
End of 3rd Quarter
- Friday, March 12:
No School
- Thursday, March 18:
R-7 Vocal Concert
- Thursday, April 8:
Franklin & Washington
K-2 Vocal Concert
- Thursday, April 29:
Franklin & Washington
3-4 Vocal Concert
- Wednesday, April 14:
Kindergarten Roundup—
No Kindergarten classes
- Thursday, May 20:
Last day of school—
noon dismissal



Mailing address for all elementary schools:

PO Box 2002
Holdrege, NE 68949

Washington: 995-4339

Franklin: 995-4269

R-7: 995-6179

Holdrege Public Schools
Website:

www.thedusters.org

It's hard to believe that we are ending our third quarter this month. Our elementary students are working very hard to learn and master new concepts and ideas. Parent Teacher Conferences went very well and we appreciate your involvement in your child's education.

SIGNING STUDENTS OUT/IN

In an effort to follow district policy and stay consistent with Holdrege Middle School and High School procedures, effective immediately students who need to leave school during the school day must be signed out by a parent, guardian, or designee in the school office. Please refer to page 9 of your 2009-10 Student-Parent Handbook.

If your child returns to school during the school day, a parent, guardian, or designee must also sign the student back in at the school office. Please do not go directly to the classroom.

We understand that this is not always convenient, but in order to keep our schools as safe as possible and to prepare for upcoming security changes, we are asking all parents to please follow these guidelines starting immediately.

Students in the portable classrooms must also be picked up and dropped off at the office. Students will be escorted to the office and back to the classroom by a staff member.

Thank you for helping us make sure our schools are a safe place.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

The Holdrege Elementary schools are preparing for the kindergarten class of 2010-11. An informational meeting was held on February 22nd, but it's not too late to contact us about enrolling your child for the upcoming school year. If you have a child, or know of a child, who will be 5 years old by October 15, 2010, please call Washington Elementary at 995-4339 to register. We are keeping the kindergarten list at a central location for planning purposes. Your child's attendance center will be determined at a later date.

Kindergarten Round-Up will be held on April 14th for the entire district. Even if you did not attend the informational meeting, you are encouraged to participate in Kindergarten Roundup. This is an important time for your child to experience what kindergarten will be like, meet the teachers, and for parents to ask questions and complete the enrollment process.

READ ACROSS AMERICA

Nebraska author Nancy L. Sharp from Fremont will be presenting assembly programs to groups of students to kick off the Read Across America week on Monday, March 1. The groupings will be Kindergarten at 8:30 followed by 1st & 2nd graders at 9:30 and finally 3rd & 4th grades at 10:30. The programs will be at the Tassel.

RECESS AND WEATHER

Please remember that when the temperature is 18 degrees or above, and the wind chill is not below 5 degrees, we will be going outside for recess. If there is snow on the ground, students will not be allowed to play off the cleared cement areas unless they have snow boots. If there has been a significant amount of snowfall, students may be required to wear both boots and snow pants to play in the snowy areas so their clothes are not wet when they return to class.



ELEMENTARY MUSIC PROGRAMS

Our elementary students have been busy preparing for their Spring vocal concerts. Under the direction of Mrs. Judy Butler and Miss Alissa Bislow, the students are very excited to show family and friends how much they've learned in music education this year.

The R-7 performance is Thursday, March 18th and will begin at 6:00 pm. Franklin and Washington Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades will perform on Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 pm. The Franklin and Washington 3rd and 4th grade concert will be on Thursday, April 29th at 7:00 pm. All concerts will be held at The Tassel.

Please note that in the school calendar the Franklin/Washington elementary grades are switched. Please refer to this newsletter and notes from Mrs. Butler for the correct dates.

HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Empowering Students for Success

In the Classroom...

MRS. NICOLE MATTSON—SPEECH—WASHINGTON/R-7

This year I am again splitting my time between Washington and R7, as well as working with the birth to age 5 population. I work with children who need help in the areas of articulation and language. Articulation refers to speech sound production. Language refers to receptive language-listening skills or how much language a child understands, and expressive language which is how well a child communicates (verbal or nonverbal) with others. Speech-Language students are involved in a variety of activities that are individualized to meet their specific needs.

SUPERSIZED KIDS SPEAKER

Walt Larimore, MD, author of the national bestseller book *SuperSized Kids*, will be speaking at The Tassel on Wednesday, April 14th at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to hear this nationally-known speaker address the health issues facing our children today. Look for more information very soon.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school will again be offered for students who will be finishing kindergarten to fourth grade this year. Summer school will begin on Monday, May 24th and run through Friday, June 11th. There will be no summer school on Monday, May 31st for Memorial Day. More information about this program will be sent home in the near future.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Several organizations are considering community needs and exploring the possibility of a Summer Lunch Program for children (approximate grades, K through 12) to be offered Monday-Friday at downtown Holdrege Churches (on a rotating basis) in June and July. Call your child's school office (see front page of newsletter for phone numbers) if your children would benefit from participating in this program and have free noon lunches this summer.

WE WANT YOU!

Needed: Parents to be involved with district and building committees. This is another good way get involved with what is happening in our district and have input about issues that matter to you.

If you're willing to serve on a district or building committee, please contact your building principal.

The mission of the Holdrege Public Schools is to prepare students to be lifelong learners and productive, responsible citizens by providing a quality education in cooperation with family and community.

MRS. BREINIG—1ST GRADE—WASHINGTON

In first grade we have been very busy! We are now past our 100th day of school and are working more independently. In math we are adding and subtracting to 20. We will soon be counting money to \$1.00 and telling time by the hour and half hour. In reading your child should be reading independently to you at home. Keep reading at home because all the practice really helps your child. In science we have recently finished the five senses and will be moving along to the study of the human body. In social studies we have studied some of our Presidents.

MRS. GUSTAFSON—TITLE—FRANKLIN

Are you looking for a simple activity you can do at home to improve your child's reading skills? Try "Paired Reading!"

Paired Reading is a form of choral reading done by parent and child. If you follow these simple steps at home, you should see improvement in your child's reading ability:

- Find books that are at your child's "instructional level" which means no more than about one or two words out of ten are difficult for your child.
- Read aloud TOGETHER while your child points to the words with his/her finger. (Both your voice and your child's voice should be reading aloud at the same time.)
- When your child gets "stuck" on a word, simply tell your child the correct pronunciation while pointing to the word, and have your child do the same, then continue reading.
- It is beneficial to read the same stories many times over!
- If you want results, do this Paired Reading daily for 10-20 minutes per day for six consecutive weeks.

RESEARCH SHOWS: Six to ten weeks of paired reading showed a six month gain in reading achievement!



HAVE FUN READING TOGETHER!

MRS. LARSON—2ND GRADE—FRANKLIN

Second grade at Franklin in our class has been busy. Besides covering all the "basics" of second grade, we have been studying different kinds of genres. Some of the genres we learned about were humor, poetry, picture books and biographies. We learned the characteristics of genres and why we read different kinds of genres. One of our favorite genres is biographies. We've read about John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed), Alexander Graham Bell, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, Harriet Tubman, Jackie Robinson, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington. Each biography was very interesting and gave us many chances to learn some very important second grade skills. We are looking forward to the spring and learning about life cycles and the water cycle among other things!

